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Letter dated 29 March 2001 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have the honour to refer to the summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration (S/2001/15).

I should like to reiterate the Committee's continued objection to the deletion from the list of items relating to the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, which are of special concern not only to the Committee but also the majority of Member States. The Committee believes that, pending a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East, the core of which is the question of Palestine, in accordance with international legitimacy, these items should remain on the list of matters of which the Council is seized, as they continue to engage its responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should also like to stress our view that any decision to delete these items, especially at this critical juncture in the peace process, would go well beyond procedural reform and would have far-reaching negative political implications. On behalf of the Committee, I would like once again to express firm hope that decisions of such fundamental importance will be taken in thorough consultation with all the parties concerned.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibra Deguène **Ka**
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

01-31165 (E) 300301

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Identical letters dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 25 March 2001 from Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 6 to 18 March 2001 they carried out 230 sorties, 108 of them from Saudi Arabia, 106 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-31402 (E) 030401 030401

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 230 sorties in the period from 6 to 18 March 2001, 108 of them from Saudi Arabia, 106 from Kuwait and 16 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 16 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

At 0115 hours on 16 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Dohuk, Baibo, Ayn Zalah, Irbil, Rawanduz, Aqrah, Zakho, Tall Afar, Mosul and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 214 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1940 hours on 6 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Umm Qasr, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Jalibah and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2145 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1025 hours on 8 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from the demilitarized zone with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Lasaf, Rumaythah, Artawi, Shatrah, Jalibah, Basrah, Samawah and Nasiriyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0950 hours on 9 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 34 from Kuwaiti territory, by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah,

Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Samawah, Najaf, Shinafiyah, Karbala', Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0800 hours on 10 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Kut, Najaf, Karbala' South, Qurnah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Jalibah and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1015 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1115 hours on 12 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1735 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1425 hours on 13 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 15 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Salman, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Safwan, Artawi, Basrah, Shinafiyah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Diwaniyah and Rifa'i areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0055 hours on 15 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and seven from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Jalibah, Lasaf, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Najaf, Salman, Diwaniyah and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0320 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 0055 hours on 17 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft

operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Busayyah, Salman, Jalibah, Lasaf, Artawi, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Safwan, Basrah, Nukhayb, Samawah, Rumaythah, Shinafiyah, Mashkhab and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0315 hours, drove them off.

(i) At 0125 hours on 18 March 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Ashbajah, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0505 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British has made these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear full international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its call to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi targets and installations, the Government of Iraq urges you to perform your assigned duties as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Hamid Yusuf **Hammadi**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

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Letter dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 March 2001 from Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister refers to outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in neighbouring countries and to the great efforts that have been made to guard against the spread of the disease to Iraq. These efforts are, however, being thwarted by the enormous difficulties encountered by the comprehensive preventive vaccination programme owing to the destruction of laboratories for the production of vaccine against the disease by the Special Commission in 1996 and the inhuman position taken by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom in placing holds on contracts for the importation of serums and vaccines on the grounds that they may be dual-use items, so that the disease is likely to appear in Iraq in the form of a widespread epidemic if urgent measures are not taken to remedy the current situation.

The Minister states that the relevant Iraqi authorities will initiate contacts with specialist companies with a view to the renovation of the laboratories for the production of foot-and-mouth vaccine, and that you will be asked to approve the financing of the costs of the project from revenues under the memorandum of understanding. He warns against attempts by the United States and the United Kingdom to obstruct this process, and he expresses the hope that these two countries will understand the catastrophic consequences of their present policy of exploiting the mechanisms of the United Nations to commit genocide against the people of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-31396 (E) 040401 040401

Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our letters addressed to you on 27 February 1999 (S/1999/219, annex) and 11 April 1999 (S/1999/411, annex) concerning the danger of foot-and-mouth disease spreading in Iraq, I should like to inform you that the outbreak of the disease in the United Kingdom and its communication to Europe as well as the appearance of cases in countries adjacent to Iraq have prompted Iraq's veterinary authorities to summon all their efforts to guard against the spread of the disease to the country. These efforts have, however, been thwarted by the unjust embargo being maintained against Iraq, by the fact that laboratories for the production of vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease were arbitrarily destroyed by the Special Commission in 1996 and by the inhuman position taken by the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom in placing holds on contracts for the supply to Iraq of vaccines and serums for both humans and animals on the grounds that they are dual-use items. All of these factors have created enormous difficulties for comprehensive preventive vaccination against the disease, so that it is likely to appear in Iraq in the form of a widespread epidemic if urgent measures are not taken to remedy the present situation.

In the early 1970s, Iraq made major investments in immunizing its livestock and an enterprise was established for the production of vaccine against the three types of foot-and-mouth disease (O, A and Asia) and for the identification of the various strains of the virus that causes the disease. The laboratories had a design capacity to produce 12 million doses of triple vaccine a year; their output met all of Iraq's needs; and large quantities of vaccines were exported to Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Laos and France. The enterprise continued to produce and to export until early 1991, and it contributed throughout this period of time to controlling foot-and-mouth disease in Iraq and in other countries in the region. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also regarded the plant's facilities as reference laboratories for the identification of types and strains of the pathogenic virus.

Work at the enterprise was briefly suspended during the aggression against Iraq by the United States and its coalition partners in 1991. It subsequently resumed, and production continued until 1992. Work then halted when the raw materials held in the plant's stockrooms were exhausted and because it was impossible to import more owing to the blanket sanctions imposed on Iraq.

In 1996, the Special Commission destroyed the laboratory equipment and facilities in an arbitrary manner on the grounds that some items of equipment had been used in the Iraqi biological weapons programme. At the time, Iraq asked the Commission not to destroy the equipment but to place it instead under the ongoing monitoring regime, especially since the biological programme itself had ceased in 1990 and the items of equipment and laboratories in question were the only ones in Iraq that could produce vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease. The Special Commission, however, which took its orders from the United States of America, insisted on destroying the plant, facilities and equipment, including the air-handling equipment that had been in the laboratories. Not only did the Special Commission do this, but it also placed foot-and-mouth vaccine on the list of items subject to the

export/import monitoring mechanism for Iraq approved by the Security Council in its resolution 1051 (1996).

The destruction of these laboratories in 1996 and the restrictions placed on the importation by Iraq of vaccines against foot-and-mouth disease brought the implementation of the preventive vaccination plan in Iraq to a complete standstill and thus caused all the efforts made to control the disease to be wasted. This led to its reappearance and made it difficult to control because of the absence of the technical capacities required for laboratory diagnosis of the disease and the identification of the types and strains that are causing it so that the type of vaccine to be used for immunization can be selected. All of this led to an epidemic of the disease in Iraq in 1998 and caused the loss of 575,421 lambs and calves and the infection of more than 2.5 million animals.

The consequences of this epidemic included an economic catastrophe and a major loss of Iraqi livestock, and its impact was further exacerbated by the comprehensive sanctions being maintained against Iraq. It led to a sharp fall in the incomes of Iraqi farm households, whose livelihood basically depends on what their animals produce, and it also had an impact on per capita protein consumption, given the major extent to which Iraqis depend on red meat, milk and dairy products as important sources of animal protein. This increased the incidence of acute malnutrition, especially among children.

Missions from many United Nations agencies and specialist organizations of relevance have visited Iraq and have referred in their reports to the scale of the destruction caused to livestock as a result of the suspension of the production of foot-and-mouth vaccine. They have recommended, as a matter of necessity, the reactivation of this vital facility in order to control foot-and-mouth disease in Iraq in such a way as to have positive repercussions for the region in general.

The facts set forth above confirm the pressing need for the renovation of the facilities and laboratories for the production of foot-and-mouth vaccine. This would include:

1. Production of various strains of vaccine to meet actual needs and ensure a basic stock to cope with emergency situations;

2. Provision of a capacity for the rapid identification and typing of pathogenic strains;

3. Field monitoring for the purpose of assessing and determining the level of immunity of animals vaccinated.

The relevant Iraqi authority will contact specialist companies with a view to the renovation of the laboratories for the production of foot-and-mouth vaccine, and we shall request you to approve the financing of the costs of the eventual contract from those of Iraq's resources that are allocated to the memorandum of understanding, or the so-called oil-for-food programme. We must also warn, even now, against attempts by the United States and the United Kingdom to obstruct the renovation of the laboratories, and we express the hope that these two countries will

show some understanding of the catastrophic effects of their present policy of exploiting the mechanisms of the United Nations in order to pursue a policy of genocide against the people of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Hamid Yusuf **Hammadi**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs